

Region 5 Fact Sheet

Geographic Summary

States: **6 States:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Tribes: **35 Tribes:** Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bay Mills Indian Community, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa, Hannahville Indian Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Inter-tribal Council of Michigan, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band (Gun Lake), Menominee Indian Tribe of WI, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Pottawatomi, Oneida Nation, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Sokaogon Chippewa Community (Mole Lake), St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Upper Sioux Community, White Earth Band

Logistics

Regional Office headquarters: **Chicago, Illinois**

Field offices: **Des Plaines, Ill.; Willowbrook, Ill.; Westlake, Ohio; and Ann Arbor, Mich.**

Laboratory: **Chicago, Illinois**

Staff: Region 5 has been allocated 995.7 FTE in FY20. Region 5 utilizes 923.7 FTE as of August 2020.

Top environmental priorities and challenges

- **Great Lakes Restoration and Protection.** Region 5 hosts the Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) which, in partnership with other Agencies and Canada, works to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. GLNPO oversees the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (\$320 million/year); coordinates the cleanup of legacy sediment contamination in Areas of Concern; and monitors the health of the Great Lakes. Historic high Great Lakes water levels continue to cause a multitude of issues including coastal erosion.
- **Elevated PFAS Levels.** There are numerous areas of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination from industrial and other sources throughout Region 5. PFAS occurrences have generated widespread public and congressional concerns for both human health risks and environmental harm. Region 5 is working with its states to identify and remediate these areas, with support from EPA's Office of Research and Development.
- **Clean Air Nonattainment and Transport Issues.** Since 2017, Region 5 has redesignated 25 areas and continues to work with states to bring the remaining 22 areas back to attainment. In 2021, Region 5 is obligated to issue a Federal Implementation Plan for SO₂ in the Detroit nonattainment area. There is also a focus with the Lake Michigan states to address transported ozone in nonattainment areas throughout the region.
- **Childhood Lead Exposures.** Childhood lead exposure from aging drinking water infrastructure, source water switches and contaminated dust and soils is a top priority. Region 5 is working in Flint, MI and several other communities to ensure safe drinking water, as well as extensive efforts to combat exposures from residential lead paint and Superfund cleanups to remediate lead in soils. However, in this Region, 30,000 children under 6 years of age have been diagnosed with lead poisoning in each of the last three years representing 30% of those diagnosed across the US.
- **Remediation and Redevelopment.** In 2020, Region 5 had 8 Superfund National Priority List (NPL) deletions which represents 28% of the national total. While there is significant effort to clean up the remaining 72% of the sites, it is important that Region 5 continues to focus on partial deletions to spur redevelopment while the longer-term groundwater remedies are in place.
- **Challenges in Indian Country.** All 35 tribes within Region 5 are extremely diverse in their priorities and interests. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) projects to restore and protect water resources is important to many of our tribal communities.
- **Staffing.** During FY20, Region 5 emphasized external hiring to help offset increases in attrition. Using a variety of techniques, Region 5 onboarded 103 new staff, a net gain of 40 new employees for the FY and close to ceiling.